

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA:ARDAY:BH

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA:MR.ATHERTON

NSC:B. MC FARLANE

S/S:O A. OTTO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 024971

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, US, SA

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO PRINCE SAUD ON RABIN VISIT

1. PLEASE CONVEY THE FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE FROM ME TO
FOREIGN MINISTER, PRINCE SAUD:

2. ON BEHALF OF PRESIDENT FORD, I WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY TO
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, AND THROUGH HIM TO HIS MAJESTY KING
KHALID AND HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE FAHD, A REPORT ON
WHERE MATTERS STAND IN OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE FURTHER PROGRESS
TOWARD A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

3. THE TALKS WE HAVE HAD THIS WEEK WITH PRIME MINISTER RA-
BIN WERE VERY DIFFICULT ONES, BUT WE BELIEVE WE MAY
HAVE MADE SOME LIMITED PROGRESS. PRESIDENT FORD EMPHASIZED
IN THESE DISCUSSIONS THAT THE UNITED STATES CANNOT TOLERATE
STAGNATION AND STALEMATE, WHICH WOULD NOT BE IN THE OVER-
ALL INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES. WE MADE CLEAR THAT

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SUCH A COURSE WOULD LEAD TO A WEAKENING OF THE U.S. ROLE

IN THE DIPLOMACY OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND WOULD INVITE FURTHER SOVIET ACTIVITY. STANDING STILL DURING 1976 WAS THEREFORE UNACCEPTABLE FOR US.

4. NOW THAT WE HAVE HAD THESE TALKS, WE INTEND IN THE DAYS AHEAD TO DEVELOP SOME IDEAS, BOTH PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE, TO TAKE UP FURTHER WITH THE ISRAELIS IN DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS. I WILL HAVE AT LEAST ONE FURTHER SESSION WITH MR. RABIN NEXT WEEK IN LOS ANGELES. IN ADDITION, WE WILL BE INTENSIFYING OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF EGYPT, SYRIA, AND JORDAN ABOUT WAYS TO RESUME THE PEACE PROCESS, AND WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOUR HIGHNESS AS SIGNIFICANT STAGES MAY BE REACHED IN THIS PROCESS.

5. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THE OCCASION OF THIS MESSAGE TO GIVE YOU MY THOUGHTS AS WELL ON THE CURRENT SITUATION IN LEBANON. WE HAVE BEEN GRATIFIED TO SEE THE CEASEFIRE TAKE EFFECT AND THE STRIFE COME TO AN END, AND WE HAVE CONVEYED OUR GRATIFICATION IN THIS RESPECT TO THE SYRIANS AMONG OTHERS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING PROGRESS TOWARD A POLITICAL ACCOMMODATION WHICH WILL PROVIDE A FIRM BASIS FOR CONTINUED PEACE AND STABILITY. FOR OUR PART, WE SHALL BE CONTINUING TO ENCOURAGE ALL FACTIONS TO COOPERATE IN REACHING SUCH AN ACCOMMODATION, WHICH WILL REQUIRE A SPIRIT OF COMPROMISE ON ALL SIDES. I WOULD HOPE THAT SAUDI ARABIA, WITH ITS VERY CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE AMONG THE VARIOUS FACTIONS, WILL SIMILARLY ENCOURAGE RESTRAINT AND COMPROMISE.

6. AS ALWAYS, I WOULD HIGHLY VALUE WHATEVER THOUGHTS OR ADVICE THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT MIGHT HAVE ON EITHER OF THE SUBJECTS OF THIS MESSAGE. MEANWHILE, I SEND TO YOU, AND TO HIS MAJESTY AND PRINCE FAHD, MY WARM REGARDS. KISSINGER

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NNN

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